

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of December 15, 2006. The Office Action indicated that Claims 1-25 are pending and rejected. With this Amendment, Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24, 25 are amended, and Claim 1-25 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 4, 13, 17, 19 and 21 were provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 9, 13, 16 and 20 of copending Application No. 11/122,960. The copending application No. 11/122,960 was filed later than the present application and is still pending. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection in the present case and allow Claims 1, 4, 13, 17, 19 and 21. See MPEP 804, chart I-B.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, 12-15 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Watson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,559,660).

With this Amendment, independent Claims 1, 13 and 19 are amended to include limitations to forcing the impedance OFF during a first time interval controlled by a first timer and enabling a limited inrush at the current input during a second time interval controlled by a second timer. Watson et al. does not disclose forcing the impedance OFF during a first time interval controlled by a first timer and enabling a limited inrush at the current input during a second time interval controlled by a second timer. Claims 1, 13 and 19, as presently amended, and dependent Claims 3, 12, 14, 15, 20 are thus believed to be novel and patentable. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) and allowance of Claims 1, 3, 12-15 and 19-20 is therefore requested.

Antecedent basis for the second timer can be found at least at page 7, line 19 to page 8, line 7, and in FIG. 4 (reference numbers 416, 418).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 4-11, 16-18 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watson et al. '660 in view of Nguyen (U.S. Patent No. 6,917,504).

As discussed above, independent Claims 1, 13 and 19 are amended to include limitations to forcing the impedance OFF during a first time interval controlled by a first timer and enabling a limited inrush at the current input during a second time interval controlled by a second timer. Nguyen does not disclose forcing the impedance OFF during a first time interval controlled by a first timer and enabling a limited inrush at the current input during a second time interval controlled by a second timer. Neither Watson et al. nor Nguyen, taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest forcing the impedance OFF during a first time interval controlled by a first timer and enabling a limited inrush at the current input during a second time interval controlled by a second timer as presently claimed in independent Claims 1, 13 and 19. The dependent Claims 2, 4-11, 16-18 and 21-25 include additional limitations that, when taken in combination with the limitations of the independent claims, are also believed to be patentable. Withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 2, 4-11, 16-18 and 21-25 and reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2, 4-11, 16-18 and 21-25 are therefore requested.

Conclusion

With this Amendment, the application appears to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is requested. The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,
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